

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
and ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Plaintiffs

v.

GEORGIA PACIFIC CHEMICALS, LLC,
and GEORGIA PACIFIC CONSUMER
OPERATIONS, LLC
Defendants

Case No. 1:18-cv-01076-SOH

JOINT STATUS REPORT REGARDING LODGED CONSENT DECREE

Pursuant to the court's July 26, 2019 Order, Plaintiffs, the United States of America, on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, and Settling Defendants Georgia Pacific Chemicals, LLC and Georgia Pacific Consumer Operations, LLC (collectively "Parties") hereby submit this Joint Status Report regarding how the Parties wish to proceed.

On June 4, 2019, Settling Defendants publically announced the planned closure of a substantial part of the paper manufacturing facility located in Crossett, Arkansas, to take place in the fall of 2019. Because this planned closure will affect and alter Settling Defendants' obligations under the lodged Consent Decree pending before the Court, the Parties are currently negotiating an amended Consent Decree. The Parties desire to complete these negotiations as soon as practicable, and the United States expects to lodge the amended Consent Decree with the

Court no later than December 1, 2019. The Parties intend to fully resolve the allegations contained in Plaintiffs' Complaint (ECF No.1) by the amended Consent Decree.

Upon lodging of the amended Consent Decree, the United States would publish public notice of the amended Consent Decree in the Federal Register and solicit public comments. Once the comments have been received and reviewed by the United States, and assuming the comments do not warrant a reconsideration of the terms, the United States would then expect to move the Court for entry of the amended Consent Decree.

Under these circumstances, the Parties request that the Court take no action with regard to this case until the amended Consent Decree can be lodged and submitted for approval. The Parties are available for a telephone conference should the Court have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Samuel D. Blesi
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 2, 2019, a copy of the foregoing "Joint Status Report Regarding Lodged Consent Decree was filed electronically with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system. I also certify that I have served this filing to counsel for Defendants, by U.S. mail, postage prepaid:

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